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mention. Probably the best and most up-to-date magazine or journal in circulation to-day is the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING. It is the property and official organ of the American Nurses' Association and has been published monthly for the past twenty years from the editorial office in Rochester, N. Y. All news and information connected with the nursing world are conveyed to the reader briefly and concisely. From the beginning to the end it is filled with educational matter. Besides news and information, it contains a large number of advertisements for those wishing positions of any kind and it also mentions locations of schools for those desiring special courses. A constant reader of this journal is pretty well informed concerning all work in the line of nursing. The reader will also find pleasure in short stories appearing each month. I can recommend this JOURNAL as an economical one meeting the requirements of those nurses wishing to be well informed.

Maryland

A. W.

#### A CORRECTION AND SOME DATA

Dear Editor: In the December number of the JOURNAL is a notice of the death of Ada B. Shaw, in which it is stated that she organized the visiting nurse work at Princeton, N. J. Miss Shaw relieved me for a vacation, and I appreciated her interest in going over the work with me. It was after this visit that she became deeply interested in public health work. In addition to the work spoken of in the December magazine, she organized the visiting nursing at Meadville, Pa., which is still continuing the splendid service as she planned it. It was also due to her effort that visiting nursing was established at Jamestown, N. Y. Miss Shaw's love for organizing was such that she did not seem contented to remain long in a place after she had planned the work to run smoothly. Wherever she went she infused into the work enthusiasm and interest, thus leaving her impression on the work for permanent improvement. Her vision was ever greater than her strength, and sadder, even than her death, was the fact that she was compelled for a time to lay down her work, and with hands idle, look on. The visiting nursing at Princeton, N. J., was organized in 1900, or 1901, by Marjorie Cox, who continued it for a year. I began my Princeton service in 1902 at \$50 a month, out of which I paid my board. I felt satisfied, as I loved the work. At the close of the year, I had a leave of absence, and after several changes, the Committee asked me to return with an increase of salary, a house and a housekeeper; the arrangement of the house was such that I could care for two emergency cases. The patients were supposed to be transferred to the Trenton hospitals as soon as practicable. The moving of the patients was very hard to accomplish, after they had been admitted to the nurse's home, and so we had a number of interesting recoveries, also various experiences. I look back on my six years in Princeton with the greatest pleasure. As the years go on, and with the various phases of nursing that have come to me, there is always the strongest feeling prompting me to again take up my basket and get back to the patients in their homes, where true gratitude is found for work that the nurse often feels is incomplete. The Princeton visiting nursing has developed into a hospital, with the nurse continuing her work for the town and residing in the hospital.

Pennsylvania

J. E. Y.

#### PRIVATE DUTY NURSING

Dear Editor: "What is wrong with the private duty nurse?" is the question asked in the January JOURNAL. As a private duty nurse for thirty years I have found very little wrong,—on the contrary, my life has been a very busy and a

very contented one. I received my training in one of the large New York hospitals, in the days when the course covered only two years and when antiseptic surgery was in its early infancy, when dressings were clean but not sterilized and present day operating technique was practically unknown. We had few deaths from septicemia and only one, during my course, from puerperal fever, thanks to an up-to-date obstetrician, who against all opposition insisted upon surgical cleanliness. Nursing was hard in those pioneer days, we had no modern nurses' home with steam heat and modern comforts; the food was none too nourishing or abundant; we went on duty in the wards the day of arriving at the hospital, classes and lectures were all at night, after eleven hours of duty. We carried all our trays from the serving kitchen to the wards, scraped and washed all our flaxseed poultices and cloths, and did a lot of scrubbing and cleaning. I had \$21 per week after graduation and the same amount for the first ten years afterwards, then \$25 per week for the next eight years, and after two post-graduate courses in obstetrics and general nursing, I felt I could ask more for obstetrical cases. I practically worked only for two specialists. The majority of my patients were of moderate means, a few well to do, but some with very limited means. I loved the babies and instead of going to India or China to do missionary work, I took delight in teaching the mothers how to care for and feed their babies. I took the same interest in the older children and when the mother was ill, looked after the older children, supervised their care and feeding, put the mother's mind at ease and so did my bit for humanity. I often went for the fourth or fifth baby in the home and felt free to charge according to the income of the bread winner. After each case was finished, I went home to rest for a week or two before going to another. During that interval I found time to enjoy concerts or lectures, see my friends, do some necessary mending, and prepare for the next four or six weeks of work. I found no monotony in my work; each patient presented a new phase and new interests; many became warm personal friends and I never felt it to be a curtailment of advancement in nursing or other lines of work,—on the contrary, a great opportunity for service beyond the bond. I think the trouble with the majority of nurses is, that they live very narrow lives in a club house or nurses' home, where they congregate daily for a cup of tea, talk over their cases and the petty little woes, real or imaginary, and do nothing to broaden life for others, or add to their own larger outlook. We need to keep up with current events, keep posted about the world's doings, attend travel lectures, hear good music, not invariably go to see plays and attend the movies, take a course in reading, study a foreign language, do any or all of these things which will help to broaden our horizon and make us more acceptable to the patients we are called upon to care for. While the world lasts, the sick are with us and will need us. We must search for and find the secret of happiness in our work, ever remembering that the purpose of every good nurse is to make her patient comfortable and happy, and that we go to each case, not to be ministered unto, but to minister.

New York

AN OLD GRADUATE WHO IS STILL IN HARNESS.

#### COÖPERATION FROM THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

Dear Editor: Last night witnessed a splendid piece of professional coöperation. The St. Louis Medical Society a week ago had voted to oppose the nurses' bill. This action was taken because they did not understand what the nurses were working for, and they felt that the hospitals would be improperly staffed if the schools were to immediately raise their entrance requirements, and if all